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LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, as of 0530 hours today, the Croatian Army (HV) has withdrawn 650 out of 800 personnel from the zone of separation in the Eastern Slavonia sector (formerly sector East); 870 out of 1,470 personnel from the Glina sector (formerly sector North); and 970 out of 1,000 personnel from the Knin sector (formerly sector South). The HV withdrawal is therefore 76 per cent complete. The withdrawal that was delayed as a result of the circumstances noted below will continue until full completion. A joint HV/European Union Monitoring Mission commission that is presently observing developments in the zone of separation will be able to report later today on further progress in this regard.

The Croatian Serb paramilitary units have meanwhile taken 207 positions in the zone of separation: 23 in the Eastern Slavonia sector; 133 in the Glina sector; and 51 in the Knin sector. About 2,000 Croatian Serb paramilitary troops remain in the zone of separation; none have withdrawn. On 15 May, the Croatian Serb authorities in Knin also closed the Adriatic pipeline, in violation of the Economic Agreement of 2 December 1994. Additionally, the Croatian Serb paramilitary units in the Eastern Slavonia sector, strengthened by personnel from the Yugoslav Army (JA), are carrying out manoeuvres and taking offensive positions that threaten a part of the territory of the Republic of Croatia adjacent to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina that is under control of the Croatian Government. The military value of this territory, if occupied, is to connect the Serb-occupied Eastern Slavonia sector in Croatia to the Serb-occupied parts of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and secure a supply corridor from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), through Croatia, to the Bosnian Serb-controlled territories.

The Croatian Government has undertaken substantial steps to calm the situation within its sovereign territory, by follow-up activities in respect of civilians in Western Slavonia, by fruitful discussions with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, regarding the role of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) in

Western Slavonia, by signing the Status-of-Forces Agreement and by completing a substantial withdrawal of HV personnel from the zone of separation. The Croatian Government has therefore demonstrated its full commitment to the continuation of the peace process in Croatia and to the implementation of the UNCRO mandate on its territory. Furthermore, my Government is of the view that any new action in respect of Croatia, other than UNCRO action with regard to Croatian Serb violations in the zone of separation and the closing of the Adriatic pipeline, is unnecessary and may actually serve to destabilize Croatia and the region in general.

May I request your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative